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State Information Center	800-457-8283

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Representative F. Dale Grubb

Will you be able to vote?

Due to new state laws, you will be required to have a valid Indiana state picture ID to vote. Please visit my



website, www.in.gov/H42, to learn more about this law and how to obtain an identification card and rules concerning absentee voting.

Representative F. Dale Grubb
Indiana House of Representatives
200 W. Washington St.
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Helping Hoosier Families



Property Tax Relief



2006 Session Report

Additional Property Tax RELIEF

At the start of the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly, property tax relief was identified as a priority by members of both parties. When the smoke cleared, we were able to provide some relief for homeowners.



Rep. Grubb This year, about 1.5 million homeowners will receive a one-time increase in the state homestead credit from 20 to 28 percent. This credit will provide around \$100 million in property tax relief in 2006.

In 2007, the state homestead deduction will increase from \$35,000 to \$45,000 for one year only. This relief will provide an additional \$127 million in relief for homeowners. Starting in 2008, the state will gradually phase in a cap on property tax bills at two percent of a home's value. This cap would apply to all classes of property in Indiana, starting in 2010.

While this relief is welcome, it still does not make up for the massive increases in local property taxes that were passed on to home and business owners through the biennial state budget approved in 2005 that I voted against. At the time, that budget increased the burden on local property taxpayers to the tune of an estimated \$850 million.

I had worked hard for 10 years to help relieve Hoosiers of property tax burdens. Unfortunately this was undone last year when the time to have enacted true, lasting property tax relief was 2005, but nothing was done by those in charge.

Indiana tightens eminent domain law

Improving protection for homeowners

In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local governments can use the process of eminent domain to take private property, such as homes and businesses, in order to hand it over to a private developer.

Indiana lawmakers immediately began working on a plan to protect the property rights of Hoosiers. Months of bipartisan work has resulted in legislation which I co-authored that tightens Indiana's eminent domain laws and restricts the ability of most government units to seize private property and transfer it to private entities for development.

The new legislation sets strict standards for property acquisition through eminent domain, and limits its use to only truly blighted and decaying properties. This will prevent a developer from being able to have a local government use eminent domain to seize your property simply because they think it might be a good spot for a new strip mall.

It received unanimous support, but there are still potential problems that need to be addressed. Most troublesome is the fact that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is exempt from complying with the new restrictions.

There are concerns that INDOT will use this exemption to seize property for some of the road privatization projects proposed by the governor, such as the Interstate 69 extension or other unannounced projects in other areas of the state. Protection of property rights is one of the founding principles of our constitution, this bill will help.



Representative Dale Grubb (right) discusses legislation on the House floor with Representative Ed Mahern (D-Indianapolis).

Summary of bills I co-authored

HONORING SENATOR LUGAR

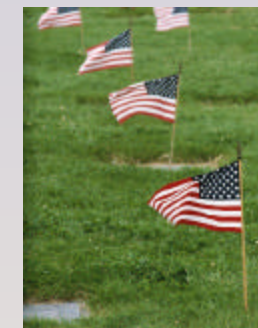
I was pleased to author a resolution honoring Senator Richard Lugar in his efforts to safeguard the American people from the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction throughout the world. Since the inception in 1991 of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program it has helped to deactivate 6,700 nuclear warheads; destroyed 590 missile silos, 32 mobile missile launchers, 150 strategic bombers, 789 air-to-surface nuclear missiles, 549 submarine launched missiles, 436 submarine missile launchers, and 28 strategic missile submarines. It has also sealed 194 test tunnels. Senator Lugar has also recently introduced legislation with Senator Barack Obama aimed at eliminating stockpiles of conventional weapons such as shoulder-fired missiles that terrorists have used to attack commercial aircraft, fuel civil wars in Africa and elsewhere and ammunition to attack peacekeepers and aid workers seeking to stabilize and rebuild war-torn societies.

UNWANTED FAXES

I co-authored the bill that provides that the transmission of an unsolicited advertisement by telephone facsimile machine is a deceptive act. The bill authorizes the Attorney General to recover civil penalties up to \$1,500 for the transmission of an unsolicited advertisement by fax machine. Civil penalties collected will be deposited in the Consumer Protection Division Telephone Solicitation Fund.

FUNERAL PROTESTS

I co-authored new legislation that increases the penalty for disorderly conduct occurring near the location of a funeral, memorial service, or viewing. The bill is largely in response to a group from Kansas that has chosen to stage protests at the funerals of Hoosier soldiers killed in action, using the occasion to make a political statement. Providing dignity for the family and loved ones of our fallen heroes is the least we should provide. We owe them everything.



SEX OFFENDERS

I also co-authored a series of bills to continue our state's efforts to crack down on sex offenders. The bills clarify the designation of "sexually violent predator," require sex offenders to wear GPS tracking devices, establish lifetime parole for these offenders, ban sex offenders' access to locations where children may be present, keep better track of sex offenders' whereabouts with the new DOC sex offender registry, and make the crime of human trafficking of a minor a felony.



Military Family Relief Fund

We established the military relief fund to provide grants for Hoosiers whose family members have been called into duty since September 11, 2001. A portion of the money for the fund will be raised through the sale of a new Hoosier veteran license plate created through the bill. Starting in January, individuals may also donate directly to the fund by contacting the Indiana State Department of Veterans Affairs.

Representative Dale Grubb debates legislation on the House floor.

